

DENTAL CARE POLICY**Family Member and Retirees**

1. The primary mission of the Dental Service is to provide dental health care to active duty members. When this priority is met, limited care to support resident training requirements is provided to a small percentage of non active duty patients on a first come/first served basis if their needs coincide with training requirements.
2. Family members and retirees receive care on a space available basis only. The amount of care we provide is determined by staff and facility limitations as well as whether active duty needs are being met. Consequently, family members and retirees will need to get most or all of their dental care from civilian dentists using the Dependent Dental Plan (DDP), private insurance or at their own expense.
3. In order to qualify for space available care it is necessary to have a dental examination to determine your dental needs. Examination appointments for adults and children 15 years and older are limited and are available on a call-in basis only, once per month on the 16th (or first duty day after that date if the 16th is on a weekend). Appointments can be made at either MacKown or Dunn Clinics on that day by calling the following telephone numbers beginning at 0700:

MacKown Clinic	Bldg. 4602	Telephone: 292-4198
Dunn Clinic	Bldg. 6418	Telephone: 292-7392

Appointments go very quickly and it is not unusual to get a busy signal when you call. In the interest of fairness and equal access only one examination appointment will be given per calendar year. Appointments for children 14 years and younger can be made on a space available basis by calling the Dunn Dental Clinic between 0700-1600 on duty days at telephone number 670-6259.

4. At the time of your exam, your treatment needs will be discussed with you. A dental prophylaxis (cleaning) appointment will be scheduled when the examining dentist considers it necessary and if appointments are available.
5. Referral to a residency program for further evaluation will be accomplished if space is available and your special needs fulfill unique residency training requirements. The examination officers are aware of these changing specialty requirements.
6. Appointments for restorative treatment (where decayed teeth are treated and defective fillings replaced) are available only on a very limited space available basis. To get a space available appointment for restorative treatment you must have already had an exam and the dental record must indicate the need for a filling and the amount of time required for the appointment. The number to call for a space available restorative appointment is 670-7251 from 0730 to 1600. Complex or extensive treatment is not easily done on a space available basis nor is treatment for patients who require antibiotics prior to an appointment. In these cases we recommend you seek care from a civilian dentist.
7. Family members of active duty personnel are encouraged to enroll in the Dependent Dental Plan (DDP). This is an excellent program that will meet most of your family's dental needs on a cost sharing basis. Retirees and their family members are not eligible for DDP but there are a number of private dental insurance plans available. Costs of these plans vary along with the benefits provided. The Dental Directorate can provide you a resource list of some of the plans available but cannot recommend one to you.
8. Emergency dental care for family members and retirees (for the relief of conditions such as trauma, bleeding, infection, swelling, fractures or severe pain) is available at Dunn Dental Clinic at 1200 hours on each duty day. After duty hours or on weekends and holidays, emergency dental care is available at MacKown Dental Clinic. Dental conditions such as broken fillings or intermittent pain or sensitivity should be assessed by the patient's civilian dentist.

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Director of Dental Services